

Wildlife Conservation Modular Office in McGrath**FY2003 Request: \$150,000**
Reference No: 35795**AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Construction**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** McGrath**Contact:** Wayne Regelin**Election District:** Rural Interior**Contact Phone:** (907)465-4190**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2007**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Funding is requested by the Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) to purchase a modular office, transport it to McGrath, assemble the building parts, and prepare it for occupancy. A building site has been secured in partnership with the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The proposed office building is 18' x 44' consisting of pre-constructed panels that can be shipped by air. There is an entryway, two offices, common work area, restroom, and utility room, all ADA accessible. Office space in McGrath needs to accommodate two professional staff as DWC has added a second biologist to the game management area surrounding McGrath.

Funding:

	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	Total
Fish/Game	\$150,000						\$150,000
Total:	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going Project
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Securing adequate office space in McGrath for DWC biologists is a long-standing problem. Currently, the DWC staff obtains free space within a building owned and used by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This is a temporary arrangement as the FAA building is scheduled for demolition in 2002. Previously, the office was housed in the corner of the break room in space occupied by DNR. Leasing has been investigated repeatedly and is not feasible due to space needs and access requirements.

The present office space used by DWC staff in McGrath will not be available beyond June 2002 when the Federal Aviation Administration/National Weather Service facility is scheduled for demolition. Because of biological fieldwork scheduled for 2002, it may be necessary to temporarily relocate the office by April and the only spaces presently available are not suitable for long-time occupation (e.g., non-ADA, undesirable location).

Suitable office space in McGrath does not exist. Concerted efforts to locate space with other governmental agencies or the private sector have failed. The community infrastructure is limited in McGrath leaving very few options.

This project indirectly leverages funds from the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service). Fish and Game and the USFWS are currently sharing the cost of leasing property from the Alaska Department of Transportation. The USFWS will be constructing a large storage/workshop facility with their own funds on the leased property, and this facility will be available for use by ADF&G personnel. The CIP requested by ADF&G will be used to obtain and construct an office facility; to which the Service will also have access. This proposed arrangement is mutually beneficial to both agencies, expanding the benefits beyond what would be possible with separate, individual projects.

The first phase of this effort was to secure a site that will provide the best access for the public, and provide the best combination arrangement of logistic/transportation (i.e., primarily aviation) support. The airport site jointly leased with the Service meets these needs. Construction of an office on the site would constitute the second phase. These are independent events, and no obligation was undertaken that mandates construction of the office. However, failure to construct an office could affect the present joint lease agreement.

The goal of this project is to provide a suitable working environment for DWC staff who are responsible for a professional wildlife management program in the three key areas of the upper Kuskokwim (Unit 19D&C – McGrath and surrounding communities), middle Kuskokwim (Unit 19A&B – Aniak and surrounding communities), and the middle Yukon (Unit 21E&A – Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross).